

community. She joined Harnett County in 1996 as Director of Information Technology and retired after three years as County Manager. Appointed in 2018 by the Harnett County Board of Commissioners, Mrs. Stewart is the first woman to serve as County Manager.

Mrs. Stewart has led a career of distinction and is a strong and effective leader. During her tenure with Harnett County, she improved customer service, expanded access to public services, enhanced public communications, and managed growth by embracing new opportunities while preserving the rich history of our community. She is credited with revising Harnett County's fiscal policy, coordinating response efforts to emergency events such as Hurricane Florence and the coronavirus pandemic, and oversaw construction of the Harnett County Resource Center and Library.

Renee and I would like to extend our most heartfelt appreciation to Mrs. Stewart for her years of exemplary service to Harnett County, which is a better place today due to her work. I know I speak for our entire community in wishing her and her family continued success and happiness as they move on to their next great adventure.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring County Manager Paula Stewart for 25 years of service to Harnett County.

HONORING BOUNTHIENG
EGKHOUNMOUNG AS IOWAN OF
THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Master Sergeant Bounthieng Egkhounmoung, a recently retired veteran, as Iowan of the Week. Bounthieng, or BJ as he's known, retired last week from the 132nd Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard after over a total of 38 years in service to the country and the state of Iowa.

From the Marine Corps, Air National Guard, and the State of Iowa, BJ served his country through nearly four decades. He retires as a Master Sergeant from the 132nd Wing of the Iowa Air National Guard. The 132nd Wing, founded in 1941, has deployed in numerous conflicts throughout the world and played a critical role in our state's flood recovery over the last few decades. Their values of Integrity First, Service Before Self, and Excellence in All We Do were exemplified by BJ throughout his service.

As Asian Pacific American Heritage Month comes to an end, may we celebrate the diversity in our country and reflect on the challenges many in the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities still experience. BJ's exemplary service to our country and lived the military values of duty, honor, and country. To quote General MacArthur who was reflecting on his own 30 years of military service said "Those three hallowed words (duty, honor, country) reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn." Master Sergeant BJ embodied these values in his 38 years of service.

Our country is safe and our communities are secure thanks to the service of the over 20 million veterans and active service members that protect our nation, including BJ's service. As I rise today in honor of BJ, I encourage everyone to reach out to veterans and military families in your life, hear their stories, and give your thanks. I will continue to work across the aisle in Congress, such as my recently passed Sgt. Ketchum Rural Veterans' Mental Health Act, to ensure our veterans get the care they need and deserve.

It is my honor to recognize BJ for his nearly four decades of outstanding service to our country. I thank BJ for his service, and I hope he has an enjoyable retirement.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
AND AMERICAN SAMOA COLLEGE
ACCESS ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILIL CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa College Access Act, which would authorize tuition assistance grants to cover the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition costs for Northern Marianas and American Samoa community college graduates seeking to attend a four-year public university.

The importance of having an educated citizenry is a bedrock principle of our nation and has been since our founding. And in today's competitive job market, a postsecondary education is increasingly becoming a critical necessity for obtaining a decent job with a decent wage.

The Northern Mariana Islands has only been part of America for forty years. We understand well that education is key to our continued growth, but the reality is that household incomes in the Northern Marianas are less than half the national median. The U.S. territory of American Samoa is in similar economic straits. Poverty and unemployment rates there are among the highest in the country.

I believe the best way to improve economic conditions in these territories is to improve the educational opportunities of our residents. Unfortunately, however, neither the Northern Marianas nor American Samoa has a four-year institution of higher education. In fact, they are the only two congressional districts in the country without a public four-year college or university. Each has an accredited community college, but academic offerings are substantially limited.

Students from these U.S. territories wanting the advantages of a four-year university in another state or territory face significant financial difficulty. Nonresident students spend an average of \$16,380 in out-of state tuition and fees more per year than their resident peers at public four-year colleges, according to College Board. And many students in the Marianas and American Samoa wanting to attend a four-year university not only face the cost-of-nonresident-tuition, but also the significant expense of travel. The Marianas are over 3,700 miles from the nearest state, Hawaii—a \$1,100 one-way trip by plane. American

Samoa to Hawaii is over 2,500 miles, over \$800 one-way.

The bill follows the model of P.L. 106–98, the D.C. College Access Act, which allows students residing in the District of Columbia to apply for grants to help pay the cost of attending colleges outside D.C., but much smaller in scope and cost. It creates a program through which public four-year schools in the 50 states, D.C., and other U.S. territories may be reimbursed for offering in-state tuition to undergraduate students from the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa.

The gentlewoman from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and help give students from the Northern Marianas and American Samoa the means needed to make their educational dreams a reality.

IN RECOGNITION OF LIEUTENANT
COLONEL DENNIS K. WILLIAMS II

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 4, 2021

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank Lieutenant Colonel Dennis K. Williams II for this extraordinary command of the Letterkenny Munitions Center at Letterkenny Army Depot from June 6, 2019 to June 10, 2021.

LTC Dennis K. Williams II is a native of Grants Pass, Oregon. He enlisted in the Army in 1991, and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in 2001. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts in history and earned a graduate degree in management. Prior to serving as commander of Letterkenny Munitions Center, LTC Dennis K. Williams II was the Director of the Virtual Experimentation Team in the U.S. Army Futures Command Sustainment Battle Lab in Fort Lee Virginia.

His previous assignments includes serving as the Brigade Combat Team S4 Trainer, Brigade Support Battalion Executive Officer and later Support Operations Officer Trainer at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, California; Battalion Executive Officer, 10th Sustainment Brigade, Fort Drum, New York; Deputy Division 04, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York; Deputy CJ–4, CJTF–10, Bagram, Afghanistan; Division Maintenance Officer, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea; Brigade S3, 171st Infantry Brigade, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Battalion Executive Officer, 187th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Company Commander, B. Co, 187th Ordnance Battalion, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Bomb Disposal Advisor Military Transition Team, 2nd Iraqi Army, Mosul, Iraq; Depot and Ammunition Supply Point Officer-in-Charge, 83rd Ordnance Battalion, Okinawa, Japan. He was deployed to Somalia and Haiti in 1994. In 2008, LTC Dennis K. Williams II was deployed to Mosul, Iraq; and to Bagram, Afghanistan, in 2014.

LTC Dennis K. Williams II received a Bronze Star (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), Meritorious Service Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters) Army Commendation Medal (Valor Device), Army Commendation Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan